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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) & (b) The Government had accepted the donation of the Madurai District Committee of the Madras Provincial Welfare Fund for the construction and equipment of a maternity ward in the Government Hospital, Usilampatti. The construction of the building was completed in March 1954. But the Committee paid the amount required for the equipment of the ward only in December 1954. The ward will be equipped and occupied shortly."

SRI V. MUTHU :—" உசிலம்பட்டியில் இருக்கும் ஆஸ்பத்திரி கிராமத்தின் மத்தியில் இருக்கிறது. அங்கு எப்போது பார்த்தாலும் நோயாளிகள் அதிகமாக வந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் ஒரு ஆண் டாக்டரும் ஒரு பெண் டாக்டரும் இருந்தார்கள், இப்போது ஆண் டாக்டரை வேறிடத்திற்கு மாற்றிவிட்டார்கள். லேடி டாக்டர் மெடர்டினிடி கேஸ்களையும் மற்ற கேஸ்களையும் கவனிக்கும்படியாக இருக்கிறது. அதனால் அவர்களுக்கு சிரமம் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆதலால் ஆண் டாக்டர் எப்பொழுது அந்த ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் அமர்த்தப்படுவார் என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Public Services Commission have now recruited medical men, both men and women, and I trust that the vacancies that we are having now would be filled up soon."

Increase of bus fare in Madras.

* 1290 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) the date from which the charges per mile were increased in the City Transport system; and

(b) why the charges were increased?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) & (b) The bus fares in Madras City have not been increased recently but they were only rationalized with effect from the 15th of November 1948 in accordance with the approval by the Government in November 1947 after due publication, viz., one anna for the first stage and six pies for every subsequent stage (a stage approximating as far as practicable to a mile)."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the buses are the only means of conveyance for the poor men, also in view of the fact that Government are enjoying a monopoly of running the buses in the City of Madras after the stoppage of the trams and further in view of the fact that the cost of running the buses has come down because they are now running Diesel buses, will the Government think of lowering the rates in the City of Madras for the buses? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Ours is perhaps the lowest charge. Therefore, I do not think it is possible to consider reduction of rate at this stage."

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Sri N. K. PALANISAMY :—" 1952-ம் ஆண்டிலே பெட்ரோல் பஸ்ஸில் ஒரு மைலுக்கு 8 பைசாவாக கட்டணம் இருந்தது. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது டிசல் பஸ்ஸின் செலவு குறைவாக இருந்தபோதிலும், பஸ்ஸின் கட்டணம் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. ஏன் சர்க்கார் இந்த கட்டணத்தைக் குறைப்பதற்கு பதிலாக அதிகப்படுத்தி யிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன் ?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" அனேக பஸ்கள் ரிப்பேர் செய்யவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதற்கு அதிகமான பணம் வேண்டியிருக்கிறபடியால் கட்டணம் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :---" Sir, according to the answer given by the Hon. Minister after the introduction of rational rates, it is one anna per mile and half an anna for the subsequent mile. The distance between the Kodambakkam level crossing and the Kodambakkam temple is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The normal charge now charged is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas from the level crossing to the temple. But on Krithigai days, for both the special buses that are run and the ordinary buses, the charge is As. 2 from the level crossing to the Vadapalani temple. This is not rational, it is illogical, it is unfair to the people. Will the Hon. Minister look into the matter and revise the rates to the usual rate even on Krithigai days? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It is perhaps because it is a ' Special Bus ' that the excess rate is charged. However, I will look into the matter."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" What is the qualification for half-rates for children, is it the age, or height or both or colour? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That question does not arise out of the main question, Sir."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, arising from the answer of the Hon. Minister, it is clear that special rates are charged for Special Buses. There is some logic behind it. But the discrepancy I pointed out is that even for ordinary buses that usually ply from Triplicane to Kodambakkam, a charge of As. 2 is levied, in conformity with the special rate charged for special buses. Will the Hon. Minister have this examined? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I cannot give an assurance but at any rate, I said I shall look into the matter."

Destitute Home in Madras.

* 1291 *Q.*—

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar is not in his place. The answer will be printed in the proceedings."

(At this stage, both Mr. T. C. Narayanan Nambiar and Sri K. P. Gopalan stood up in their seats to put the question.)